MARVEL COMICS
2099
39
JAN
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SPIDER-MAN
2099 A.D.™
CS
MF

MORNING, MR. O'HARA.

HELLO.

MORNING, MR. O'HARA.

HELLO.

MORNING, SIR.

HI.

MORNING, MR. O'HARA.

YEAH, HI.

ONCE UPON A TIME, IT WOULD'VE BEEN, "HI, MIGGY." OR NOTHING AT ALL.

INSTEAD IT'S...

MORNING, MR. O'HARA.

SURE, WHATEVER.

HEART-BEAT REMAINS ACCELERATED. SUBJECT IS CLEARLY AGITATED.

YOU CAN SHOVE YOUR "CLEARLY AGITATED!!!

BROTHER'S KEEPER

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LEMME OUTTA HERE! I'LL GET YOU! I'LL GET ALL OF YA!

THE SUBJECT "VENOM" IS BEING LESS THAN COOPERATIVE, SIR.

WELL, WE'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

HELLO, KRON. RATHER LIVELY FOR A DEAD MAN.

PRETTY SMUG, AIN'T'CHA, O'HARA. JUST LIKE WHEN WE WERE IN SCHOOL.

BE A LOT LESS SMUG WITH MY HAND AT YOUR THROAT!

GENTLEMEN... CLEAR OUT, PLEASE, ON MY AUTHORITY.

BUT SIR...!

NOW. OH, AND DON'T FORGET TO WISH ME "GOOD MORNING."

YESSIR. MORNING, SIR.

THE RECORDS LIST KRON STONE AS DEAD. SO HOW'D YOU GET HERE?

BYTE ME!

BYTE ME? LISTEN, YOU'RE A MULTIPLE MURDERER.

YOU'RE ALIVE BECAUSE YOUR BOND WITH THE ALIEN SYMBIOTE MAKES YOU OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST.

BUT INNOCENT PEOPLE'S BLOOD IS ON YOUR HANDS... INCLUDING PEOPLE I LOVED.

AWWW. POOR BABY.

YOU'RE GUTLESS, O'HARA! ALWAYS WERE!

OH, REALLY?

YOU AND ME, KRON... IF YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE ME WITHOUT YOUR VENOM SYMBIOTE.

YOU WIN, YOU WALK. I WIN, YOU BECOME THE ANSWER MAN.

DEAL??!

DEAL!!

WHAM

NUH... NOT BAD. SO THIS'LL TAKE ME TEN SECONDS, 'STEAD OF FIVE.

NO, KRON. IT'S GOING TO TAKE LONGER THAN THAT.

HEY! ARRHHH! LEGGO!

WHAT I'M TRYING TO "LET GO" OF IS MY ANGER. AND YOU KNOW WHAT?

IT'S NOT WORKING!!!

EEEYAHHH!!

SO I'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP AT IT UNTIL IT'S ALL OUT, KRON.

COULD TAKE MINUTES... DAYS... ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE.

AHHH!

UNHHH!

UCHHHH!

Awright... Awright... I'll TALK...

I KNOW YOU WILL, KRON.

BUT THIS ISN'T JUST ABOUT YOU TALKING.

IT'S ABOUT ALL THE PEOPLE WHO'LL NEVER TALK AGAIN... NEVER SMILE OR LAUGH OR MAKE LOVE AGAIN...

BECAUSE OF YOU.

I DON'T WANT YOU TO TALK, KRON.

I WANT YOU TO SCREAM.

AND WE'LL BUILD FROM THERE.

DOWNTOWN...

HEY... DID YOU SEE THAT?

THE VULTURE HAD ME COLD, AND THIS... THIS GUY SHOWED UP AND KICKED VULTURE'S BUTT. I CAN'T EVEN DESCRIBE HIM...

DID HE KIND OF LOOK LIKE THAT?

Ohhhh SHOCK...

DON'T LET HIM IN! KASEY, ARE YOU NUTS?!

ONLY IF I THINK I CAN KEEP HIM OUT.

I'M SURE YOU MEET SO MANY INTERESTING PEOPLE, I MIGHT HAVE SLIPPED YOUR MIND.

HELLO, MY DEAR.

DO YOU REMEMBER ME?

OKAY, FREAKSHOW! DON'T MOVE!

JUST STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE!

IF YOU IN SIST.

SHZAK

ARRHHH!!

YOU'LL BE ABLE TO PICK UP THE GUN IN A FEW MINUTES.

HAS THE VULTURE MANHANDLED YOU SINCE THAT SCUFFLE?

UH...NO. NOT AT ALL.

THERE'S A NEW *ORDER* IN DOWNTOWN. ONCE EVERYONE *KNOWS* IT, WE CAN LIVE IN PEACE AND RECLAIM WHAT ALCHEMAX HAS TAKEN.

WILL YOU *HELP?*

OF...OF *COURSE.* WITH YOU AND SPIDER-MAN WORKING TOGETHER...

THAT CORPORATE TOOL? *FORGET* HIM.

WHAT? I... DON'T *BELIEVE* YOU.

THEN I'LL MAKE SURE HE *CONFESSES* IT *PERSONALLY.*

FAREWELL.

NOW *THERE* GOES A COLORFUL CHARACTER.

I DON'T *TRUST* HIM.

ME *NEITHER.* I DON'T KNOW *WHO* TO TRUST ANYMORE.

BUT I'D LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE *ABOUT* HIM.

WHAT THE SHOCK DO YOU THINK IS GOING ON IN THERE? I THOUGHT I HEARD STUFF BEING KNOCKED OVER...

MAYBE WE SHOULD CALL SECURITY...

THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY.

I THINK YOU'LL FIND HIM MORE COOPERATIVE NOW.

MISTER STONE?

MISTER STO...

VENOM? ARE YOU ALL RI--?

OH MY LORD.

Whuyuwanaknow?

I HAVE *TWO* HALF BROTHERS.

ONE THINKS HE'S MY *FULL* BROTHER, AND *HATES SPIDER-MAN*...

AND THE OTHER DOESN'T KNOW WE'RE *RELATED* AND HATES *MIGUEL*.

ADD THEM UP, I'VE GOT *ONE WHOLE* BROTHER WHO HATES ME *COMPLETELY*.

IT'S *NICE* TO HAVE FAMILY.

BY THE WAY, I HAVE *REMOVED* DANA FROM THE HOLIDAY CARD LIST AND *DISCONTINUED* HER SECURITY CLEAR--

NO.

SHOULD IT?

SHE'S *DEAD*, LYLA! DOESN'T THAT MEAN *ANYTHING* TO YOU?!

I GUESS NOT.

GABRI *STILL* NOT HOME?

NO.

AND *XINA*?

HER ELECTRONIC SERVANT, JACK, SAYS SHE IS NOT TAKING CALLS.

THEN I'LL *VISIT*. GOOD A TIME AS *ANY* TO CHECK THE WEBFOIL REPAIRS.

AND IF THEY ARE *INADEQUATE*?

"IN THAT EVENT, DANA WILL HAVE COMPANY."

YES, COME IN PLEASE, MR. O'HARA.

HEY, XIN'. HOW YOU HOLDING UP?

FINE.

IT... MUST HAVE BEEN AWFUL FOR YOU. BEING THERE, SEEING IT HAPPEN... SEEING HER...

IT COULD'VE BEEN ME, MIGGY.

SO EASILY, IT COULD'VE...

YOUR TEA IS READY. SHALL I...?

NO. I'LL DO IT, JACK.

IT'S *INCREDIBLE*. AFTER ALL THIS TIME, KRON STONE CAME BACK TO *HAUNT* US.

AND *WHO* WAS THE ONE THAT SUFFERED? YOU AND ME, WHO HE *HATED*?

NO. DANA. WHO... WHOSE *ONLY* CRIME WAS THAT SHE WAS OVEREAGER TO *LOVE* PEOPLE AND...

...AND SHE WAS READY TO *SACRIFICE* HERSELF FOR ME... AND SHE'S DEAD, AND...

...AND I'M *STILL HERE*!! WHY THE *SHOCK* AM I *STILL HERE*?!?

SHE LOST HER *LIFE* OVER ME, AND... AND MY FIRST REACTION WAS *RELIEF*. I THOUGHT, "THANK THE LORD IT'S *OVER* AND I'M STILL *HERE*!"

WHAT KIND OF... OF *MONSTER* WAS I TO THINK THAT!?

NO MONSTER. JUST... A SCARED *PERSON*. IT'S *OKAY* TO BE HAPPY YOU SURVIVED.

IT DOESN'T MAKE YOUR MISERY *NOW* ANY *LESS* SINCERE.

MIGGY... I THINK YOU *SHOULD* RUN ALCHEMAX.

W-WHAT? BUT YOU SAID...

I WAS TELLING YOU HOW TO LIVE YOUR LIFE.

AT LEAST YOU *HAVE* A LIFE.

FORGET I *EVER* CRITICIZED YOU.

LORD... WHO AM I TO TELL SOMEONE *ELSE* WHAT TO DO?

DOWNTOWN...

STOP SKULKING IN THE SHADOWS. YOU AREN'T EXACTLY THE MOST INCONSPICUOUS OF INDIVIDUALS.

GLASS HOUSES, SWEET GOBLIN. GLASS HOUSES.

SO...DID OUR LITTLE ACT IMPRESS HER?

YES:

WHY HER, MAY I ASK? WHY SINGLE HER OUT?

BECAUSE SHE'S A PIVOTAL FIGURE HERE IN DOWNTOWN. A LOT OF THE CLIQUES RESPECT HER.

NO OTHER... JUICIER... REASON?

NONE. NONE AT ALL.

ALCHEMAX...

...AS MIGUEL O'HARA STARES AT A HOLO-REP OF HIS HALF-BROTHER'S FACE...

...SEEING NOTHING OF HIMSELF, MUCH AS A HOMO SAPIEN WOULD GAZE IN LACK OF RECOGNITION AT A NEANDERTHAL.

EXCUSE ME? MR. O'HARA?

I HATE TO INTRUDE ON YOU, BUT--

FATHER JENNIFER! LONG WAY FROM DOWNTOWN, AREN'T YOU?

I'M... SORRY? HAVE WE MET?

HUH? OH... UH...

WELL... NOT MET EXACTLY.. I...

I DROPPED BY YOUR CHURCH ONE DAY.

OH. WELL... THAT'S NICE.

MR. O'HARA...

"MIGUEL," PLEASE.

ALL RIGHT. MIGUEL...

I KNOW YOU AND MY SISTER WERE CLOSE, AND I...

YOUR SISTER?

WHY... DANA. DANA D'ANGELO.

SHE NEVER MENTIONED ME?

OHHHHH BOY.

SHE... MENTIONED HER SISTER JENNY A FEW TIMES IN THE BEGINNING. BUT...

...BUT NOT AT ALL LATER ON.

WE WERE CLOSE FOR THE LONGEST TIME. BUT WE HAD A FALLING OUT A COUPLE YEARS AGO.

AND NOW I... CAN NEVER MAKE IT RIGHT.

AHEM! IS THAT THE... INDIVIDUAL? HOW DID HE BECOME SO BANGED UP?

HAPPENSTANCE.

I WAS ABOUT TO LISTEN TO HIS "EXPLANATION" FOR HIS ACTIONS. CARE TO JOIN ME?

IT'S WHY I CAME HERE: TO SEEK ANSWERS.

IT ALL STARTED WHEN THE PUNISHER KILLED ME...

...OR TRIED TO.

"I DON'T BLAME HIM FOR MAKING THE MISTAKE. I SURE PASSED FOR DEAD. GIVEN A LITTLE MORE TIME, I WOULD'VE BEEN.

"BUT THE PUNISHER, HE WASN'T WASTING TIME. SO HE TOSSED ME DOWN THE NEAREST SEWER HOLE.

"I FLOATED AWAY, NOT BREATHING, NOT... ANYTHING. A FEW MORE MINUTES, PROB'LY, AND I'M GONE.

"AND THEN I BRUSHED UP AGAINST...IT.

"IT HAD BEEN THERE FOR YEARS... MUTATING FROM AN EARLIER... INCARNATION... WAITING FOR A LIVING HUMAN HOST...

"... AND FOR THE FINAL FEW SECONDS, I FILLED THE BILL.

"TOOK A LITTLE WHILE. LIKE I SAID... IT HAD MUTATED.

"IT SAID ITS NAME WAS... VENOM. CATCHY.

"I CAME OUT OF THE SEWER, NEWBORN... FOUND SOME BUM... FRIED HIM...

"...THEN LEFT MY I.D. ON HIM AND PLACED AN ANONYMOUS CALL TO THE AUTHORITIES."

BUT IT WAS MY FIRST KILL, AND I WAS EXHAUSTED. IT TOOK MY BODY TIME TO ADAPT TO THE SYMBIOTE, AND IT TO ME.

SO WE HID BACK DOWN IN THE SEWER... UNTIL WE HEARD ABOUT OUR FATHER GETTING SHOT.

WE COULDN'T LET HIM DIE WITHOUT TAKING ONE LAST TRY AT KILLING HIM OURSELVES.

LORD, FORGIVE HIM.

LORD FORGIVE *HIM?!* FATHER... HE'S A *MONSTER!*

THE GREATER THE DESCENT *INTO* THE PIT, THE GREATER WILL BE THE TRIUMPH OF THE CLIMB *OUT.*

BULL! BECAUSE OF HIM, YOUR SISTER AND MY LOVER IS *DEAD!* HE DESERVES TO *BURN FOREVER!*

THEN THAT WILL BE THE *LORD'S* JUDGMENT, NOT MINE.

OH, AND MIGUEL...

RAISE YOUR VOICE TO ME *AGAIN*, I'LL KNOCK YOUR *TEETH* OUT.

MR. O'HARA, A CALL FOR YOU.

UH... YEAH, PUT IT THROUGH.

OH, *HI*, GABRI. LOOK, I...

QUIET. LISTEN... I *NEED* YOU.

OR RATHER...

"...I NEED HIM. DOWNTOWN."

I SHOULD GET MY *HEAD* EXAMINED.

FLOP

FIRST GABE *EVAPORATES*. THEN HE SAYS SPIDER-MAN IS NEEDED, BUT WON'T SAY *WHY*.

COULD IT BE DANA'S DEATH HAS SENT HIM *AROUND* THE *BEND*? CRAZINESS *RUNS* IN OUR FAMILY, AFTER ALL, LOOK AT *MA*.

FOR THAT MATTER, LOOK AT *ME*.

AH WELL. I GUESS I'LL *INDULGE* HIM.

AFTER ALL, WHAT CAN IT *HURT*?

To Be Continued...